

Subterranean Video 1983 - 1989 Boston

Formed as a casual, late night endeavor around the Sandin Image Processor in a back office of the Boston Film/Video Foundation, Subterranean Video (SVID) was born early in 1983 by Ben Britton & Charles Jevremovic. Never a formal entity, SVID existed more as a socially transmitted virus, replicating itself into a fluctuating line-up of as many as 13 'infectants' by the time of its practical disintegration around 1989.

Live video performances, new media events and installations were the hallmark of most of SVID's multi-faceted manifestations. The venues consisted of basement galleries, industrial lofts and seedy artist hang-outs.

SVID often presented works in a live performance motif with some of Boston's most infamous underground musical groups such as Bam-Bam, Skin and Human Sexual Response.

From 1984-1987 SVID members pioneered the concept and practice of what is now known as 'VJ-ing', creating a visual analog to freestyle audio turntableism. This was achieved by modifying 1/2" open reel portapacs to allow for unimpeded bi-directional playback of image and sound.

SVID also spawned several splinter groups over the years such as Danger Video and d-Con, both of which continued to expand the notion of 'flexible video' further into the worlds of experimental video, media rich performance & installation. In 1986, SVID produced a 'Video LP' titled SubVersions, which led to perhaps the collective's widest exposure including awards, screenings at the Centre Pompidou in Paris and satellite broadcasts via the Deep Dish TV project.

Several of the SVID members participated in the Residency Program at the Experimental Television Center.

SVID was:

Ben Britton

Lisa Britton

Rick Brown

Daniel Hartnett

Charles Jevremovic

Phillip Kelly

Craig Milanesi

Lisa Monroe

Mario Paoli

Chris Shine

Matthew Smotzer

Yvette Torell

Clea Waite

Geoff White